# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# POWER
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3495
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2006
SHORTAGE OF COAL AND GAS
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

**Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:**

(a) whether any meeting of the Energy Coordination Committee has been held to find ways of feeding India`s growing hunger for fuel;

(b) if so, whether there is a shortage of 38 per cent of natural gas and 7 per cent of coal in the country for power generation;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of coal and gas in the country?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) : The requirement of fuel for power generation and its prevailing shortage has been drawing the attention of the Energy Coordination Committee.

(b) & (c) : During 2006-07 (upto June, 2006), against a requirement of gas (at 90% Plant Load Factor) of 53.52 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters Per Day

(MMSCMPD), the actual supply has been 36.7 MMSCMPD, thus leaving a gap of 31.4%.

The coal supply position to thermal power stations has improved considerably during 2006-07. The closing stock at thermal power stations at the end of first quarter of 2006-07 was about 17.3 million tones as compared to 9.7 million tones at the first quarter of 2005-06. Number of critical power stations with less than 7 days` stock reduced from 17 at the end of first quarter of 2005-06 to 2 at the end of first quarter of 2006-07.

(d) : Steps have been taken to increase availability of gas from domestic sources by awarding gas blocks for exploration and production activities in various sedimentary basins of the country under New Exploration Licensing Policy and also to import of gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas.

To bridge the gap between demand and supply of coal during 2006-07, import of 20 million tones of coal has been decided. For the medium to long term measure, Coal India is stepping up production and new coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers/utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.